Does Delta Air Lines Charge for Carry-On Bags?

QUICK ANSWER:

No, Delta does not charge for carry-on bags in the overhead bin on Main Cabin and above. One personal item under the seat is free on all fares including Basic Economy. Some international Basic Economy routes may restrict overhead carry-on. There is no weight limit for carry-on bags. Gate-checking when bins are full is always free. Call 1.855.203.2961 to verify carry-on policy for your specific route and fare.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAGGAGE FEES? Call Delta Airlines
1.855.203.2961 (Available 24/7 | Baggage Policy Assistance)
Press 0 to skip menu and reach a live agent
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com

DELTA CARRY-ON BAG POLICY:

1. Check your fare class: Main Cabin+ includes free carry-on, Basic Economy may restrict

2. Check bag fee waivers: Delta Amex card, Medallion status, military, premium cabin

3. First checked bag: $35 domestic each way | Second: $45 | Third+: $150+

4. Weight limit: 50 lbs standard | 51-70 lbs +$100 | 71-100 lbs +$200

5. Size limit: 62 linear inches (L+W+H) | Oversized 63-80 in +$150

6. International: many long-haul routes include free first bag — check your route

7. Prepay bags at delta.com or Fly Delta app during online check-in

8. Call 1.855.203.2961 for exact fees and waiver eligibility on your specific booking

Is a Carry-On Bag Free on Delta?

Yes, one carry-on bag that fits in the overhead bin is free on Delta for Main Cabin, Comfort+, First Class, and Delta One passengers. The carry-on must fit within 22x14x9 inches including handles and wheels. There is no weight limit for carry-on bags. In addition to the carry-on, one personal item that fits under the seat in front of you is also free on all fare classes. Call {ph} for carry-on dimension clarification on specific aircraft types where overhead bin sizes may vary.

The free carry-on policy means most Delta passengers can travel without any baggage fees by using a carry-on and personal item combination. A standard carry-on roller bag and a backpack or laptop

bag together provide sufficient space for trips of 3-7 days for most travelers. Call {ph} if you have questions about whether your specific bag meets Delta's carry-on dimensions.

Does Basic Economy Include a Free Carry-On?

On domestic routes, Basic Economy passengers can bring a full-size carry-on bag plus a personal item, the same as Main Cabin. However, on some international routes, Basic Economy may restrict carry-on to a personal item only, with the overhead bin carry-on either not included or available for an additional fee. This restriction varies by route and is displayed during the booking process. Always verify your specific Basic Economy fare's carry-on allowance before booking. Call {ph} for clarification on Basic Economy carry-on rules for your specific international route.

The potential carry-on restriction on international Basic Economy is one of the key differences between Basic Economy and Main Cabin. If you need overhead bin space on an international flight, compare the cost of upgrading to Main Cabin versus paying for carry-on access on Basic Economy. Call {ph} and the agent compares total cost across fare classes for your route.

What Are the Carry-On Size and Weight Limits?

Delta's carry-on size limit is 22x14x9 inches including handles, wheels, and external pockets. There is no weight limit for carry-on bags on Delta. The bag must fit in the overhead bin of the aircraft you are flying. Smaller regional jets may have smaller overhead bins that cannot accommodate standard carry-on rollers. In these cases, your carry-on may be gate-checked at no additional charge and returned to you at the gate upon arrival. Call {ph} for carry-on accommodation on specific aircraft types.

Personal items must fit under the seat in front of you, generally within 18x14x8 inches. Common personal items include purses, laptop bags, small backpacks, and briefcases. There is no weight limit for personal items. The personal item is free on every Delta fare class including Basic Economy. Call {ph} if you are uncertain whether your specific item qualifies as a personal item or carry-on.

What Happens If Your Carry-On Is Too Large?

If your carry-on does not fit in the overhead bin, it may be gate-checked at no additional charge and placed in the cargo hold. Gate-checked bags are returned to you at the jet bridge upon arrival at your destination or at the next gate for connections. If the bag exceeds the maximum carry-on dimensions and is clearly oversized, the gate agent may require you to check it as a standard checked bag, which would incur the standard $35 first bag fee if you have not already checked a bag. Call {ph} before your flight if you are uncertain about your bag's eligibility to avoid surprises at the gate.

To avoid gate-check situations, use a carry-on bag that clearly fits within Delta's 22x14x9 inch limit. Soft-sided bags that can compress are more forgiving than rigid hard-sided cases. If you are flying a

regional jet with smaller overhead bins, expect gate-checking and pack your essentials in your personal item so you have them during the flight. Call {ph} and ask whether your specific flight operates on a regional aircraft with smaller overhead storage.

Can You Bring a Garment Bag as a Carry-On?

A garment bag counts as your one carry-on if it fits in the overhead bin within the 22x14x9 inch dimensions when folded. Longer garment bags that do not fold to fit may need to be checked or may be accommodated in the coat closet on aircraft that have one, typically in premium cabins. Coat closet availability is not guaranteed and is at the flight attendant's discretion. Call {ph} and ask about garment bag accommodation on your specific flight and aircraft type.

For formal attire that must remain wrinkle-free, consider a hard-sided garment carry-on designed to fit within airline overhead bin dimensions. These specialized bags protect suits and dresses while conforming to carry-on requirements. Call {ph} for verification that your garment bag model is accepted as a standard carry-on.

What About Carry-On Bags for Special Items?

Musical instruments that fit in the overhead bin can be carried on as your one carry-on bag. Larger instruments that do not fit can be purchased a separate seat for transport in the cabin. Medical equipment and assistive devices are carried on free in addition to your carry-on and personal item allowance and do not count toward your bag limit. Breast pumps and supplies for nursing parents are also carried on free and do not count toward bag limits. Call {ph} for special item carry-on policies.

Duty-free liquids purchased at international airports can be carried on in addition to your carry-on bag if they are in a tamper-evident sealed bag with the receipt visible. TSA liquid rules (3.4 oz containers in a quart bag) apply to items already in your possession but not to properly sealed duty-free purchases. Call {ph} for duty-free carry-on rules on your specific international routing.

How Do You Maximize Your Carry-On and Personal Item Space?

Use a carry-on that reaches the maximum 22x14x9 inch dimension for the most space. Pair it with the largest personal item that fits under the seat, typically a spacious backpack or tote. Together, these two bags provide approximately 5,500-6,500 cubic inches of packing space, equivalent to many checked suitcases. Compression packing cubes, rolling clothes instead of folding, and wearing bulky items like jackets and boots reduce packed volume significantly. Call {ph} for carry-on tips specific to your aircraft type.

The most common mistake is packing a bag that is technically within dimensions but so full that it does not fit in the bin. Leave a small margin for compression when closing the overhead door. Test your packed bag in a carry-on sizer at home or at the airport before reaching the gate. Call {ph} and

the agent can confirm whether your flight's aircraft has standard-sized overhead bins or the smaller regional jet bins that require more careful packing.

What Is Delta's Gate-Check Policy?

Gate-checking is free and occurs when overhead bin space runs out on a full flight or when you are flying a regional jet with smaller bins. Your carry-on is tagged at the gate, placed in the cargo hold, and returned to you at the jet bridge upon arrival. Gate-checked bags are not subject to checked bag fees because you were allowed to carry them on and the gate-check is operational, not a fare-based restriction. Call {ph} if a gate agent attempts to charge you for a gate-check, as this should always be free.

To avoid involuntary gate-checking, board as early as your boarding group allows. Overhead bin space fills from the back of the plane forward and runs out on full flights during the later boarding groups. Medallion members, Delta credit card holders, and premium cabin passengers board earlier with better access to overhead space. Call {ph} if you want to discuss boarding group position and overhead bin availability.

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Baggage Fee Comparison by Situation

Bag Type	Domestic Fee	How to Waive	Size/Weight Limit
Personal item (under seat)	$0 (all fares)	Always free	18x14x8 in no weight limit
Carry-on bag (overhead bin)	$0 Main Cabin+ (Basic: varies)	Book Main Cabin or higher	22x14x9 in no weight limit
1st checked bag domestic	$35 each way	Delta Amex, Medallion Silver+, military	62 linear in 50 lbs max
2nd checked bag domestic	$45 each way	Delta Amex Plat+, Medallion Gold+	62 linear in 50 lbs max
3rd+ checked bag	$150+ each way	Limited waivers	62 linear in 50 lbs max
Overweight bag (51-70 lbs)	$100 surcharge	Medallion Gold+ some routes	Exceeds 50 lbs max 70 lbs

Overweight bag (71-100 lbs)	$200 surcharge	Very limited waivers	Exceeds 70 lbs max 100 lbs
Oversized bag (63-80 in)	$150 surcharge	Sports equipment may differ	Exceeds 62 linear inches

How Does Delta Compare to Other Airlines?

Fee	Delta	American	United	Southwest	Alaska	JetBlue
1st checked domestic	$35	$35	$35	Free (2 bags)	$35	$35
2nd checked domestic	$45	$45	$45	Free (2 bags)	$45	$45
Carry-on (overhead)	Free (Main+)	Free (Main+)	Free (Economy+)	Free all fares	Free (Main+)	Free (Blue+)
Personal item (under seat)	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares	Free all fares
Overweight (51-70 lbs)	$100	$100	$100	$75	$100	$100
Free bag credit card	Delta SkyMiles Amex Gold+	AAdvantage Card	United Explorer+	N/A (2 free)	Alaska Visa	JetBlue Plus Card

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People Also Ask

Q: How much does Delta charge for checked bags?

First checked bag: $35 each way domestic. Second checked bag: $45 each way domestic. Third bag and beyond: $150+ each way. Overweight bags (51-70 lbs) add $100 surcharge. Oversized bags (63-80 linear inches) add $150. International fees vary by route. Call 1.855.203.2961 for exact fees on your specific itinerary.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How do you avoid Delta baggage fees?

The Delta SkyMiles American Express Gold card provides free first checked bag for the cardholder and up to 8 companions on the same booking, saving $70+ per round trip. Medallion Silver and above get free

first bag. Military members fly with bags free. Delta One and First Class include bags. Call 1.855.203.2961 for complete fee waiver eligibility on your booking.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Does Delta charge for carry-on bags?

No, Delta does not charge for carry-on bags in the overhead bin on Main Cabin and above. Personal items under the seat are free on all fare types. Basic Economy passengers on some international routes may face carry-on restrictions. Call 1.855.203.2961 to verify carry-on policy for your specific route and fare class.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Are Delta bags free on international flights?

Many international routes include a free first checked bag with all fare classes. Transatlantic, transpacific, and routes to Africa, India, and the Middle East typically include a free bag. Short-haul international to Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, and Central America follows domestic pricing ($35/$45). Call 1.855.203.2961 for your specific international route baggage allowance.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What is the Delta baggage weight limit?

Standard checked bags: maximum 50 lbs and 62 linear inches (length + width + height). Bags 51-70 lbs incur a $100 overweight surcharge. Bags 71-100 lbs incur a $200 surcharge. Bags over 100 lbs are not accepted. Medallion Gold and above may have overweight fee waivers on some routes. Call 1.855.203.2961 for weight policy on your itinerary.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you pay for Delta bags online?

Yes, prepay at delta.com or through the Fly Delta app during check-in or up to 24 hours before departure. Online prepayment is the same price as airport payment. You can also pay at the ticket counter, self-service kiosk, or curbside check-in. Call 1.855.203.2961 if you encounter errors during online bag payment.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Does Delta charge for bags with a credit card?

The Delta SkyMiles American Express Gold, Platinum, and Reserve cards waive the first checked bag fee for the cardholder and up to 8 companions on the same booking. The Reserve also waives the second bag. Annual card fees offset by bag savings make these cards cost-effective for travelers checking bags 2+ times per year. Call 1.855.203.2961 for card-specific bag benefit details.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What happens if your bag is overweight at Delta?

Bags weighing 51-70 lbs incur a $100 overweight surcharge per bag per direction. Bags 71-100 lbs incur $200. Bags over 100 lbs are not accepted. Redistribute items to stay under 50 lbs or bring a second bag

at $45 which may be cheaper than the $100 overweight fee. Call 1.855.203.2961 for weight policies specific to your route.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: 1st bag domestic?

A: $35 each way. Free with Delta Amex, Medallion Silver+, military, First Class. Call 1.855.203.2961 for waivers.

Q: 2nd bag domestic?

A: $45 each way. Free with Medallion Gold+, Delta Reserve card, Delta One. Call 1.855.203.2961 for your eligibility.

Q: Carry-on free?

A: Yes for Main Cabin and above. Personal item free on all fares. Basic Econ may restrict on some int'l. Call 1.855.203.2961.

Q: International bags?

A: Many long-haul routes include free 1st bag. Short-haul int'l = domestic pricing. Call 1.855.203.2961 for your route.

Q: Overweight?

A: 51-70 lbs: $100. 71-100 lbs: $200. Over 100: not accepted. Call 1.855.203.2961 for route-specific rules.

Q: Pay online?

A: Yes at delta.com or app during check-in. Same price as airport. Call 1.855.203.2961 if errors occur.

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> How Do You Avoid Delta Baggage Fees?

> What Are Delta Checked Bag Fees for International Flights?

> Does Delta Charge for Carry-On Bags?

> How Do You Pay for Delta Baggage Fees Online?

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Written by Travel Policy Research Team | Reviewed by Senior Aviation Editor

Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT (dot.gov/airconsumer)

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